

Visitors/Students from EEA countries

If you are a visitor/student from the European Economic Area (EEA) and require medical treatment, you need to provide a non-UK valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to ensure you are not charged for your healthcare. Your EHIC will cover you for all medically necessary treatment during your stay.

You should also be aware that the EHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance and will not cover any private medical healthcare or being flown back home, or lost or stolen property. Planned treatment is also not covered by the EHIC and unless you have valid documentation (an "S2" form cross border healthcare) you may be charged for treatment.

Visitors/Students from Non-EEA Countries

Although you may be registered with a GP and may receive free NHS primary care services, this does not mean you are entitled to NHS funded hospital/community care, even if the GP refers you for it.

If you are in the UK on a temporary stay of more than 6 months, **and have paid the Immigration Health Surcharge at the time of your visa application**, you will receive free NHS care as long as your leave to remain is still valid, except for assisted conception services and charges that UK residents have to pay, e.g. prescriptions in England.

If you are not resident in the UK but are exempt from charge, e.g. you are from a country that has a reciprocal healthcare agreement with the UK, you will need to provide evidence of this.

Services free to all

Some services or treatments carried out in an NHS hospital are free of charge to all people. These include:

- accident and emergency services (4 hours in an A&E department)
- family planning services (this does not include termination of pregnancy);
- diagnosis, and, if positive, treatment for most infectious diseases, including sexually transmitted infections (STIs);
- treatment required for a physical or mental condition caused by torture, female genital mutilation, domestic violence or sexual violence (this does not apply if you have come to the UK for the purpose of seeking that treatment).

Some categories of patients are exempt from charge, including any condition caused by certain types of violence (torture, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, sexual violence).

A full list of exemptions can be found on the Gov.UK page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-overseas-visitors-hospital-charging-regulations/summary-of-changes-made-to-the-way-the-nhs-charges-overseas-visitors-for-nhs-hospital-care>

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